

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and versions, of claims in the present application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) An improved hands-free speakerphone for use with a communications system, said speakerphone comprising:
  - a speaker element; and
  - a housing for enclosing the speaker element, the housing ~~having an outer surface and forming at least one speaker port to permit sound generated by the speaker element to be passed therethrough;~~ comprising:
    - a front face having a user interface and a peripheral edge;
    - a back face; and
    - a peripheral face extending between the front face and the back face along at least a substantial portion of the peripheral edge of the front face;wherein the housing forms an elongated recess on the ~~outer surface~~ peripheral face, the elongated recess being in communication with the at least one speaker port, the elongated recess being of sufficient length and width so as to reduce ~~for reducing~~ the risk of a seal forming between the housing and a user's ear.
2. (Currently amended) The hands-free speakerphone of claim 1, wherein the ~~outer surface peripheral face~~ peripheral face possesses sufficient curvature at the location of the at least one speaker port so as to further reduce the risk that the outer surface portion including the at least one speaker port can be sealed against the ear of a user.

3. (Currently amended) The hands-free speakerphone of claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a front portion that includes the front face and a back portion that includes the back face adjoin along a parting line in a fixed relationship when the hands-free speakerphone is assembled for use, wherein the elongated recess is formed along the parting line ~~the at least one speaker port being located proximate to the parting line.~~

4. (Currently amended) The hands-free speakerphone of claim 3, wherein the at least one speaker port is formed on an inner surface of the ~~parting line~~ elongated recess.

5. (Currently amended) The hands-free speakerphone of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of speaker ports formed in the ~~housing~~ elongated recess in a spaced relationship relative to each other.

6. (Currently amended) The hands-free speakerphone of claim 5, wherein the spaced relationship includes sufficient spatial separation between speaker ports to further reduce the risk that the housing can be sealed against the ear of the user.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) The hands-free speakerphone of ~~claim 7~~ claim 5, wherein the housing comprises a first portion and a second portion and the ~~parting line~~ elongated recess is formed at the juncture of the first housing portion and the second housing portion.

9. – 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A hands-free speakerphone for use in connection with a telephone communications system, the hands-free speaker comprising a housing having a front face and a back face each having a perimeter, and a curved side face extending between the front face and the back face along at least a portion of their respective perimeters, the housing forming a plurality of speaker ports formed in a spaced apart relationship in an elongated recess formed along the curved side face;

wherein the curved side face of the housing possesses sufficient curvature to avoid a seal being formed between the speakerphone and the ear of a user placing at least one of the plurality of speaker ports proximate to the user's ear; and

wherein the elongated recess is of sufficient length and width so as to reduce the risk of a seal forming between the housing and the user's ear.

14. (Currently amended) The hands-free speakerphone of claim 13, wherein the housing comprises a first portion and a second portion that adjoin at ~~a parting line forming an a parting line, and wherein the~~ elongated recess, ~~wherein at least one speaker port of the plurality of speaker ports is located~~ is formed proximate the parting line.

15. – 16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously presented) The hands-free speakerphone of claim 14, wherein the first housing portion comprises a mating surface including a raised portion, and wherein the second housing portion has a mating surface forming a recess such that when the speakerphone is assembled, the raised portion is received into the recess to form the parting-line elongated recess.

18. (Previously presented) The hands-free speakerphone of claim 17, wherein at least one speaker port of the plurality of speaker ports is formed by a discontinuity in the first-housing mating-surface raised portion.

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19. (New) The speakerphone of claim 1, wherein front face does not form any speaker ports.

20. (New) The speakerphone of claim 19, wherein back face does not form any speaker ports.